

## **SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARK MINUTES**

**MARCH 13, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Ted Kruse

**GUESTS:** Kim Brewster (Chagrin River Watershed Partners) Mayor Bill Koons, Mr and Mrs Tripp, Richard Cawrse (sp?)

Martha Bistriz was sworn in by the mayor, for a two year term.

Jerry Canton invited Kim to speak about possible grant money that could be obtained with the help of her organization: Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Kim explained that the proposed playground presents an opportunity to submit an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for a Nature Works grant. This is a competitive grant. In 2016 Auburn and Newbury applied for and was granted funds for projects in their communities. In 2017, Russell Township was the only community that applied and received money. In 2018, \$46,581 has been allocated to Geauga County. Communities within Geauga county need to apply for the grant by June 1, 2018. The funds would be awarded in the fall.

There are basically three requirements that must be met and included in the grant application:

1. The funds are made on a reimbursement basis.
2. The project must comply with the American Disabilities Act (re: accessibility, etc.)
3. There must be proof of citizen participation
4. The land must be owned by the village (which it is)
5. There needs to be a resolution of reimbursement by July 1, 2018

On May 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., prior to the South Russell Council meeting, there will be an open forum so that public discussion about the proposed playground may be discussed by the community. In addition, Mayor Koons said this would be advertised in an email blast to the community, posted on the website and he would ask the Chagrin Valley Times to cover the meeting.

One hour prior to the April 23, 2018 SR Council meeting, at 6:30 p.m., there will be an open forum for the community to discuss the re-figuring of the East Washington Street side of the park with respect to the 10 acre permitted multi-use area from running perpendicular to the street to running parallel to the street. This is to enable more level playing fields. Because the balance of the acres is protected habitat, the public needs to be made aware of and endorse a change to the configuration.

Kim further clarified that the CRWP will write the grant, administer the grant and help design milestones for the project.

On March 29m the Tripps will be meeting with a second vendor of playground equipment, to obtain a second quote on materials.

The next parks committee meeting will be at the Village Hall on Tuesday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Bistriz